

[REDACTED]

6 April 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, NIS Division

FROM: Chief, Western Branch

SUBJECT: A Reduced NIS Program

1. In any future attempt to reduce the scope and number of countries to be covered in the NIS Program, we must consider what, in our view, would be rock-bottom. That is, at what point would further reduction make the Program no longer viable and not worth the cost involved. Twenty General Surveys per year would appear to be this magic point if we are to retain our present structure. Based on this premise, I propose the following as a last-resort position in any negotiations on reduction of the Program.

2. One hundred countries would constitute the coverage plan. Of these, 60 would be selected from the higher-ranking countries on the priority list, and 40 selected from the lower-ranking countries. General Surveys would be produced on the 60 countries at the rate of 20 per year. Each country would be on a 3-year maintenance cycle. Our present bound-by-chapter concept would continue, as would individual chapter dissemination.

3. Country Profiles as presently constituted would be produced on these 60 countries. The remaining 40 countries of the 100-country plan would be covered only in the Country Profiles. They would be slightly expanded and more rigidly structured, and produced at the rate of 10 a year, or a 4-year maintenance cycle. These particular Profiles would retain the present thrust but would give more emphasis than is now obtained on the major political, economic, sociological, and geographic factors of the country. A Profile numbering no more than 50 manuscript pages is suggested.

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4. It is also recommended that a reallocation of production responsibilities be considered, both to enhance the interagency concept of the NIS Program and to relieve OER and OCI of apparent NIS production problems:

Country Profile -- OBG
The Society -- Commerce
Government and Politics -- State (INR)
The Economy -- Commerce
Transportation and Telecommunications -- DIA
Military Geography -- DIA
Armed Forces -- DIA

To gain funds for the additional Commerce contract, the Science and the Intelligence and Security chapters could be dropped. In any event, elimination of these chapters would be desirable in terms of NISD's current review capabilities.

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